



# case STUDY

Lewis School Pengam, Caerphilly

## Mark Baker, Deputy Headteacher and Project Manager



mark baker

Lewis School Pengam in Caerphilly educates more than 1000 pupils from years seven to thirteen. Sixty five staff, including ten office administrators, work at the school on a daily basis so effective internal communication is an important issue at the school.

Mark Baker, Deputy Headteacher, was on the look out for a tool to deal with assessment in the school and approached Lisol to make a demonstration of *Pathways*. During the demonstration, Mark realised the system was far more than an assessment tool and encapsulated a rounded view of the day to day life of a school.

All schools in Wales have been awarded what is called a workforce remodeling fund from the National Assembly which was used by Lewis to implement *Pathways for Schools system*.

A user group was recently established with a group of pupils to start logging onto the system at home and retrieving homework, checking timetables and grades. The user group is coming up with some fantastic suggestions for improvements which are being discussed in our development meetings. Feedback so far suggests pupils find this option incredibly useful for keeping up to date with their schooling.

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Mark comments on this initial meeting: "Once one of the Lisol team had demonstrated the system's capabilities to us, we were keen not only to use it as an assessment manager but to also fulfil wider needs. We gradually realized how much more Pathways for Schools could do for us and now use five out of the pathways on offer.

"You need to look at the wider benefits of using a system like this, using the tool for only one purpose will mean you're not using the system to its full potential.

"Through the system we now complete a variety of tasks from report writing, communicating work to students, recording pastoral incidents, noting task results, messaging each other to scheduling daily activities which are even displayed on our school's display screens around the school."

"Class resources are now being put online for a selection of classes in our history and geography department on a trial basis, so when a teacher is absent, any number of staff can log in and see what is meant to be happening in the class.

"One of the most user friendly aspects of the system is the fact that we have the ability to personalize the system to meet our needs. Lisol are very responsive to the needs of their customers. Holding development meetings between the schools using Pathways ensures our recommendations are heard, discussed at ultimately, put in place after a process of development and testing."

Lewis School are currently working with Lisol on a pilot project to transfer academic records from primary level to secondary. The pilot, the first of its kind in the UK is supported by Caerphilly LEA

